care of the rich Mrs. Lowder. Milly is considered to be extraordinarily lucky fay virtue of her fabulous wealth.

A traditionally high standard of life is possible only when one has the required economic means for it. It is money which would give men freedom, power and pleasure. Such a society is positively harmful and dangerous by reason of its civilised manners and superficial glitter. Once Kate understands the tone and temper of social existence, she has the least hesitation in bowing to the dictates of the worldly world. She falls a willing victim to the corrupt and corrupting world. In a world of vulgarity and rapaciousness, where the material urge is unrefined by natural sentiment or moral fervour, Kate is quite willing, as she tells Densher, to do what she does not (ike. It is to this complex world of vulgarity. Immorality and superficial polish that the innocent American girl, Milly, comes. Milly is the eager American Eve in search of life and experience. She is a vessel of consciousness, whose ordeal it is to make herself happy in this strange and monstrous world. Henry James suggests, paradoxically, that a corrupt and corrupting society is the biggest obstacle to human refinement, and yet refinement is achieved only through experience of, and involvement in the corrupting and destructive elements of life.

The tragedy of Milly Theale is enacted in a typical Jamesian situation. Knowledge of the destructive power of the world in which she lives does not help Milly to save herself. She is warned by Kate of the dangers of her (Maggie's) full participation in the life of a diabolical world. Kate makes it clear to Milly that London society is no place for innocents like Milly. Milly enters this world with eyes wide open and suffers the consequences of her proud entry. Her fatal flaw lies in her underestimation of the power of evil, and in her lack of adequate realization that knowledge is hopelessly without resources in the face of destructive evil. She is innocent, but like other

Jamesian heroines, she too is intelligent, perceptive and Introspective,
She knows that she is in the midst of malevolent forces. But in the
"intensity of pride," Milly takes a deliberate plunge into the foul
waters of corruption and unscrupulousness. She is intelligent enough
to conclude that Lord Mark is a "potentially insolent noble/' and that
Kate is brutal as a "panther". Although this knowledge makes her
v*aguety afraid of them, it does not scare her away from tfrem.